

S.N. 10/723,318

135858

Response to Office Action

Date of Office Action: May 28, 2009

Conf. No. 9461

Drawing Correction

In response to the Examiner request, the Applicant has corrected Figure 1 to add a legend "Prior Art". A Replacement Sheet is attached to this Response.

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REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 28, 2009 wherein the Examiner stated that claims 1, 12 and 15 were objected to as being unclear; claims 5 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; claims 1-4, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams (U.S. Patent 4,885,827) in view of Zhang (U.S. Patent Appl. Serial No. 2004/0090334 A1); and claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 15-17, 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Galkin (U.S. Patent 6,850,590); claims 12-14 were allowed; and claims 11 and 18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected based claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, the Examiner stated that Figure 1 needed to be corrected to add a legend "Prior Art". In this amendment, the Figure 1 was corrected and claims 1, 11, 12, 15, 18-20 were amended and claim 5 was canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 6-22 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's instruction regarding Figure 1, the Applicant has corrected Figure 1 to include a "Prior Art" legend. A Replacement Sheet is attached to this Response.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 1, 12 and 15, the Applicant amended claims 1, 12 and 15 to clarify that the membrane minimizes distortion in the medical image.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 5 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, based on the Examiner's conclusion that the specification does not enable a tensioning apparatus that comprises both an inflatable bladder and a movable tension plate responsive to a mechanical command, the Applicant has canceled claim 5 and amended claim 15 (to delete the inflatable bladder limitation) and 19 (to change dependency from claim 16 to 15).

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In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 8 under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Zhang, the Applicant amended claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner, to clarify that the claim relates to medical imaging.

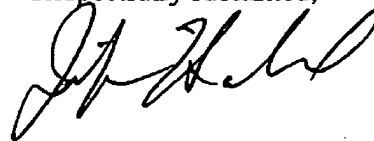
In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 15-17 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Galkin, the Applicant amended claims 1 and 15 to clarify that that membrane compresses the tissue between the membrane and the support, and claim 15 further to indicate that claim 15 relates to medical imaging.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 11 and 18 as being dependent on a rejected based claim and tentative allowance if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant has amended claims 11 and 18 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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